

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~  
~~characterized by containing, as a main component, comprising:~~

a bismuth layer-structured compound ~~having comprising~~  $(M^{II}_{1-x}Ln_x)Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$   
crystals, ~~as a main component, wherein~~  $[(\quad)]M^{II}$  is an element selected from Sr, Ba, and  
Ca $[\quad]$ ; Ln is an element selected from lanthanoids $[\quad]$ ; and x is within a range of  
 $0 < x \leq 0.5[\quad]$ ; ~~and further containing, as secondary components,~~

a lanthanoid and at least one of Mn oxide and Co oxide, as secondary components and  
~~lanthanoid, wherein the content of the lanthanoid being the secondary component~~ lanthanoid  
~~falls within a range~~ is present in an amount of 0.02 to 0.12 wt% in terms of oxide thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~  
according to claim 1, wherein the ~~content of said Mn oxide or Co oxide falls within a range~~ is  
present in an amount of 0.02 to 0.62 wt% in terms of MnO or CoO respectively.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~  
according to claim 1, wherein the main component ~~lanthanoid selected as~~ Ln is a lanthanoid  
selected from the group consisting ~~any one~~ of La, Pr, Sm, Gd, Dy, and Ho.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~  
according to claim 1, wherein the ~~lanthanoid being the secondary component~~ lanthanoid is  
~~any one~~ selected from the group consisting of Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Dy, and Ho.

Claim 5 (New): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~ according to claim  
1, wherein x is within a range of  $0.01 \leq x \leq 0.2$ .

Claim 6 (New): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~ according to claim  
1, wherein the secondary component lanthanoid is present in an amount of 0.05 to 0.1 wt% in  
terms of oxide thereof.

Claim 7 (New): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~ according to claim 1, wherein the Mn oxide or Co oxide is present in an amount of 0.03 to 0.43 wt% in terms of MnO or CoO respectively.

Claim 8 (New): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~ according to claim 1, wherein the main component Ln is a lanthanoid selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb or Lu.

Claim 9 (New): The piezoelectric ceramic ~~Piezoelectric ceramics~~ according to claim 1, wherein the secondary component lanthanoid is selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb or Lu.